

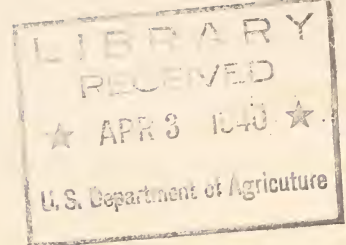
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FARM BUSINESS FACTS



Broadcast Tuesday March 12, 1940 by Marvin Sandstrom, Agricultural Marketing Service, in the Department of Agriculture portion of the National Farm and Home Hour, over ---- stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company's Blue Network.

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KADDERLY:

The Agricultural Marketing Service has just released some information on prospects for the early lamb crop; and for citrus fruits.

Marvin Sandstrom of that branch of the Department will review this information for us.

Sandy, what are the prospects for the early spring lamb crop?

SANDSTROM:

Prospects differ more than usual this year, Wallace, in the areas where the early spring lambs are produced. But the country as a whole, farmers and ranchers report about the same number of early lambs this year as they had a year ago.

KADDERLY:

And last year the early lamb crop was a big one - that is it was big when compared with other recent years.

SANDSTROM:

You're right, Wallace, last year's crop was a big one.

KADDERLY:

And you say that the reports show about as many spring lambs this year. But you also said that conditions differ considerably over the country. What are those differences?

SANDSTROM:

Yes, in the Eastern early lambing States, weather and feed conditions since the first of the year have been unfavorable to the early lambs. January was unusually cold in these Eastern areas. So very little winter grazing has been available, and it takes good pasture to make good gains on lambs. Also, February brought plenty of wet weather in the East, and losses of early lambs in that area were rather heavy.

KADDERLY:

Conditions must have been better in the Western early lambing areas.

SANDSTROM:

Right, considerably better. In the North Pacific States and Idaho, weather and feed conditions have been unusually favorable. In Arizona also, conditions were very favorable - at lambing time and since then.

KADDERLY:

There are important sheep sections in Texas and California. What's the story in those areas, Sandy?

(Over)

SANDSTROM:

A much better story this year than last. You may remember, Wallace, that California and Texas experienced decidedly unfavorable conditions for early lambs last season. Pastures and grazing lands were way short of what they usually are and lambs develop slowly and poorly. But more green feed this year has favored the Texas and California early lambs. And so it is expected that more lambs in those States will reach slaughter weights and condition by July 1st this year than last.

KADDERLY:

Then the situation in a general way for the entire country indicates that -

SANDSTROM:

That the number of early lambs ready for slaughter before July 1st is expected to be larger than last season. The slaughter supply during April may be smaller this year. But the May and June slaughter will be considerably larger. In addition to the larger marketings of spring lambs from Texas, shipments of grass fat yearlings and wethers from the State before July 1 also are expected to be larger than last year.

KADDERLY:

So we'll probably have about as many early spring lambs this year as the rather big crop marketed last season. But with the grass fat yearlings and wethers, the total slaughter of sheep and lambs before July 1 is expected to run larger than a year ago.

SANDSTROM:

That's the prospect at this time.

KADDERLY:

Now for the citrus information, Sandy. Do you have that report in mind so you can give us the highlights?

SANDSTROM:

Well, I don't have the report with me, Wallace, but one fact brought out was that the freeze damage to Florida oranges turned out to be more severe than was indicated a month ago. Spring orange shipments from Florida will be smaller than they have been for several years.

KADDERLY:

Which means --- what, in figures?

SANDSTROM:

The total orange crop for this season - 1939-40 - in the United States now promises to be slightly more than 70 million boxes, about a third of a million boxes smaller than the estimate made in February. The prospect in Florida is for about 2 million boxes less than were indicated in early February. But the reduction in Florida is largely offset by an increase in the California and Arizona crops.

KADDERLY:

And Grapefruit prospects?

SANDSTROM:

No appreciable change in prospects during the past month. Prospects still indicate a grapefruit crop of a little less than 31 million boxes. That's about the same as the crop two years ago, but a lot smaller than the record grapefruit crop of almost 44 million boxes produced last season.

KADDERLY:

(Ad lib close).

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